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family, however indigent, which does not buy these articles on account of their very low price. It will be the same with this paint.

"But let us turn from the country to the towns, where the painter must be employed. Let us suppose a house of a hundred fathoms surface is to have two coats of paint, which makes it equal to two hundred fathoms. By giving it to be done by the piece, a workman will cover twenty fathoms per day; and will be content to gain three francs for it; thus the labour will be reduced to thirty francs for ten days.

"Now let us shew the advantage to the master, for it is to the masters we must address ourselves; we may estimate the expense of the ladders, utensils, &c. necessary to be employed for this paint, at two francs per day, which amounts to twenty francs for ten days. Thus we may paint a surface of one hundred fathoms with two coats, at the price of fifty francs.

"But now let us ask, why there should be two coats, when one is sufficient for the purpose of completely covering the surface, and filling up all the pores, for it is not the thickness of the paint which gives it body; therefore half this sum may be saved, and it may be reduced to twenty-five, or at least thirty francs.

"I did not think it proper to meddle with the interests of the painters and builders, without first submitting to them, and afterwards to the architect, these calculations. One painter said to me, that if the price of this paint was fixed at six sous per fathom, they would have as much profit by it as by employing the most expensive colours.

"The number of old houses to be repaired, increase every year both in towns and the country, and most of them are painted in distemper; but the best, after a few storms, is all washed off, and the next year exhibits nothing but a dirty wall. This distemper costs at least six sous, the distempers with which the inner apartments of inferior houses are covered, comes off with the slightest friction, and cost fifteen or twenty sous. No one, therefore, can hesitate to substitute for this fragile material, a paint which is equally cheap, and so much superior; and it is to be hoped that all classes may know how to take advantage of this new process, which I repeat is preferable to every other for body.

"It remains for time to decide on its du-

ration, but in the space of two years, applied externally, it has not undergone the slightest alteration, and I will insure it for ages, by applying to it the simple size or varnish which I have employed with astonishing success in my *milk paint*."

Meteoric Stones.

M. Marcel de Serres, who has written a history of the Fall of Stones from the clouds, printed in the late numbers of the Philosophical Magazine, concludes with the following observations.

"The causes of these phenomena, in appearance so remote, have nevertheless some approximation: thus rain is nothing but the precipitation of the water which is continually rising into the air; and aërolites probably only depend on the precipitation of an infinity of substances which are incessantly evaporating, and the re-action of which upon each other may form new combinations. This hypothesis will not appear gratuitous, if we pay attention to the immense quantity of compound substances which organic bodies, stagnant waters, and all bodies while under decomposition, exhale without ceasing, and which are lost in the air without our knowing any thing as to what they become. It is therefore fair to inquire what are the methods resorted to by nature to counterbalance this perpetual evaporation, and to purify the atmosphere from all those volatilized substances? In fact it is probable that nature employs other methods of purifying the air, though probably the organic bodies are the most powerful to which she resorts. Such are the principal proofs, or rather the most constant facts, which render probable the hypothesis of aërolites being formed in our atmosphere."

Singular Phenomenon.

Coloured snow and a coloured hoarfrost took place at Arezzo, March 1815. "Pliny and Livy have mentioned showers of burnt bricks, and much ridicule has been thrown upon them for it. During the evening, the ground being almost entirely covered with snow, there fell some snow, or rather hail, not very compact, of a reddish-yellow colour, which the people improperly called red.